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Boston's sanitary code enforcement agency beefs up bike patrols

Posted by Matt Rocheleau August 29, 2012 02:49 PM

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(City of Boston)

Seven officers in the Inspectional Services Department's Code Enforcement Division completed a bicycle training and safety course earlier this month.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

The city department that issues sanitary code citations in Boston has beefed up its bike patrol.

The Inspectional Services Department's Code Enforcement Division handles sanitary violations, including for illegal dumping, improper storage of trash, illegal vending and advertising.

Earlier this month, seven code enforcement officers completed a three-day bicycle training and safety course administered by the Boston Police Department.

That raised the number of bicycle-trained code enforcement officers to a record-high of nine, Code Enforcement Police Chief Michael Mackan said.

Previously, the highest number of officers assigned to the department's bike

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beat was five in 2003, the year bicycle patrols were first deployed, he said. Including Mackan, the department has 15 personnel.

“Biking is a nice way to see the city, meet some people and get into alleys and areas you really can’t see from a vehicle,” he said. “And you can travel a lot quicker on a bike than you can walking.”

Sometimes, depending on traffic, officers can also get around quicker by pedaling a bike than by driving. And city officials said the bicycle patrols also help increase the officers’ visibility in city neighborhoods.

“This is a great program that will connect my staff with the general public on a daily basis,” Mayor Thomas M. Menino said in a statement. “I urge passerby’s to approach the CEP officers with any questions they may have regarding trash, posting of signs or any other Code Enforcement related issues of which I guarantee a quick and timely response.”

For more information about the Code Enforcement Division, visit, www.cityofboston.gov/isd/cep or call 617-635-4896.

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